

alighted on a tree almost in the middle of the clearing, with the twig in its beak, about 6 m from the ground. When it moved to the centre of the tree, it was not visible until it flew out without the twig.

Subsequently, the Nilgiri wood pigeon was seen walking on the branches of nearby trees, moving towards the slender, dry twigs, balancing itself with great difficulty. On selecting the twig, it broke it off and carried it to the nesting tree.

Both individuals of the pair were seen carrying nesting material. One individual had

the central rectrices missing, which made identification of the two individuals possible.

This observation of the Nilgiri wood pigeon at Nandi hills is significant, as it is the only breeding report of the species in the recent past.

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12. USE OF PLASTIC AS NEST MATERIAL BY GOLDEN ORIOLE
ORIOLOUS ORIOLOUS (LINN.), FAMILY: ORIOLOIDAE

While still following nest designs traditional of orioles, golden orioles in the Indroda Park have shown innovations in the selection of nest materials. Plastic sheets and tape have been added to 'grass and fast fibres bound with cobwebs', THE BOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS by Sálím Ali.

Uday Vora, DFO, Gandhinagar took me bird watching on Sunday, July 19, 1998, in the Indroda Park, Gandhinagar. The Park borders the Sabarmati river and is, in his words "a maternity home for birds". He has a keen eye for locating nests and had taken me to see a white paradise flycatcher incubating freshly laid eggs. The nest was up on a babool (*Acacia* sp.) tree, which had nests containing full grown chicks of a black drongo pair, a whitebrowed fantail flycatcher incubating eggs and a white eye on eggs. Nearby was a golden oriole's nest from which young had just flown, the family was in the vicinity. In another babool tree, again a black drongo nest associated with a paradise

flycatcher's, this time with hatched chicks being fed by a chestnut male.

Further on, among eucalyptus trees he showed me two golden oriole nests, from both of which the chicks had flown — the birds were in the vicinity — the liquid calls of the males and the harsh responses of the females and the juveniles were continually heard. It was to these nests that Uday drew my attention. Glassing them, I confirmed a discoloured white piece of plastic sheet incorporated among the traditional fibres and grass in one nest, the other had plastic tape — the type used for tying packages — woven into the structure! The nests were some 8 m up in the sparsely crowned trees, both extremely exposed. I have suggested to Uday Vora to have the nest collected and the plastic material photographed.

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